

Frances Wood Shimer

1826-1901

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My Friend.

THE day I first met my friend is clear in memory. It was early autumn. Nature had given a sense of fulness, abundance, maturity, as I came to the little city in which I was to live for so many years. The midday sun of September made resplendent the greens of varying tints and flowers of richest hue on the campus. The birds that found a home in so many well sheltered nooks seemed to give me welcome as they caroled their song of joy.

On such a day of gladness I met the woman whose friendship helped to shape my life, holding me at one with her in her work. I well remember her searching gray eye and finely modulated voice, with its tone of self-restraint. I was in the presence of a quiet, self-poised, dignified, reserved, resourceful woman — a woman of leadership and command. Part of this came to me with the greeting, but a wider knowledge of her made clear what was then but an impression. This self-contained woman, so full of expedients to meet every emergency, so clear sighted, and far sighted, including the future in her planning, seemed sufficient unto herself; yet few who have ever lived clung, as did she, with the apparent sense of great need, to the close friends to whom she might speak as to herself. With a firm tread she could walk the way she had willed, even though the world about condemned, if only the few trusted friends had faith and hope and courage with her.

Hers was a nature that keenly enjoyed the approbation of all who knew her, and yet, if this were denied her, could suffer uncomplainingly, struggle mightily with opposition, work unceasingly, if but the near ones saw and comprehended her purpose. In all these efforts she seemed to them never to spend herself, but to hold a force in reserve that was ready for the old and the new difficulty.

She exercised the power of silence as no other that I have known. Her silent presence quieted all excitement. The rebuke

of her speaking eyes and mute lips. When reverses came and plans were thwarted, she unmoved. When sorrow was hers, and ties were silently turned from them. When sorrow was hers, and ties were broken by death, and more — by death in life, she suffered as only a great soul can, but gave no cry of pain that reached the public ear. When misunderstood, misrepresented, maligned, the great heart stifled the groan, and the world heard it not; but then it was that she looked, in mute appeal for sympathy, to those who understood, and, in return for what they gave, bestowed such wealth of affection that she who had offered her largest measure still felt herself a debtor.

At no time did she show these qualities that compel unreserved admiration so much as in the last years, when an accident had bound her to an invalid chair. The friend and business acquaintance gathered strength from her, and came again as one returns for warmth to the open fire when there is chill without. Those who were by her marveled at her boundless courage, at her great hope and faith, at her spirit of unceasing gratitude, at her large generosity that must share before she seemed to realize that she possessed — a generosity that gave of means, sympathy, herself — the generosity that forgave all and forgot.

The soul had had its conflict and won, but of this she did not speak.

If mental grasp, depth of insight, broadness of outlook, strength of will, definiteness of purpose, restful courage, largeness of soul, are qualities of greatness, then she was one of the great women of her time.

In terms that measure greatness, we must measure her capacity for friendship, and so, as one who has had priceless wealth, I would that I could have written of my friend.



Mrs. Shimer's Life and Work.

" May I be to other souls
The cup of strength in some great agony;
Be the sweet presence of a good diffused,
And in diffusion ever more intense !
So shall I join the choir invisible,
Whose music is the gladness of the world."

It is not the intent of a memorial to tell the whole of a life. That which is written is to show the foundation of success, to display the strong, essential elements of character, to trace to its source the power of influence, to demonstrate that achievement is the fruitage of endeavor, and that duty follows the law of sacrifice. The unrecorded, which transcends the written, is part of the surrounding atmosphere of good deeds from which all derive benefit, and which, like the air, common to all, sustains humanity. In this memorial of a life of service, self-sacrifice, and success, silence must represent the volumes that cannot be crystallized into printed words, but the inspiration of the life portrayed should help to carry on the work she loved.

At Milton, in Saratoga county, N. Y., August 21, 1826, a daughter was born to Rebecca Bryan and Jesse Wood. The father, son of Benjamin and grandson of David Wood, who made the first settlement in Milton, was a timid, reticent man. The mother, a daughter of Samuel Bryan and Martha Tallmadge, and one of thirteen children, all of whom died with consumption before middle age, was a "delicate, refined, ambitious woman, of superior intellectual ability, but very frail withal." The baby was named Frances Ann Wood, Frances being a favorite family name on the mother's side, because a relative named Frances Slocum, in Revolutionary times, was stolen by the Indians. From the birth of Frances, the mother failed in health. She, however, lived until Frances was ten years old. Caroline was twenty-one years older

than her young sister, and gave her a mother's care. Frances was a "strong girl who matured young, and had a massive head and body as a child." She began school when two and a half years old, and persisted in learning to read, the school being just across the street, and the teacher—Sarah Billings, afterward Mrs. Powell—an intimate friend of Caroline. In later years the Seminary never had more devoted friends or more welcome guests than Mr. and Mrs. Powell.

Being so much younger than her two brothers and sister, Frances, much petted and little restrained, was left to amuse herself with the animals about the home and farm. She had a fondness for fun, and a keen sense of the ludicrous. She was extremely fond of pets. Her cats were trained to perform surprising antics. In winter she harnessed calves as ponies to draw her handsled. Sometimes she had hairbreadth escapes, but never gave up. Her control over animals was remarkable. From childhood she was considered very skilful in managing spirited horses. She loved nature, and took great interest in everything with life. Her horticultural experiments commenced when "a very little girl." A neglected lilac bush was a source of constant distress, and her delight was unbounded when her father gave her permission to trim it. She undertook by pruning to make it symmetrical, but each branch removed, revealed equal or greater deformities. Finally only one stalk remained, which the young horticulturist pronounced "more crooked than any other," so she heroically cut that down and grew a bush to her liking.

Her love for books was early manifested. When six years old, a "book peddler" came to the house, and she was so enraptured with his books that she invested the whole of her first earnings in a volume entitled *Watts on the Mind*; of this she was very proud. At the age of seven, she was sent to a private school, boarding with her father's cousin, but was very homesick. Too proud to complain, though she suffered intensely, she plunged into study with the same energy which characterized her whole life. Her mother's death saddened the home, and the death of her favorite brother, Tallmadge, who was killed in California by Indians, left its impress on her mind, and made her more serious than children

of her age. She thought and planned about her future far beyond her years. Soon after her mother's death, her sister, who had so faithfully been nurse, mother, and housekeeper, married Mr. Nash, a prosperous young farmer, who had waited several years for his bride. The home was changed, a housekeeper installed, and Frances now entered Stillwater Academy. The approval of her teachers was a source of pleasure, and she bent all her energies toward gaining highest scholarship. As a student, she was thorough, enthusiastic, and especially fond of the sciences. Her instinctive desire for information was so strong that the mere consciousness of something unknown was sufficient incentive to arouse ambition to acquire. She could not overcome homesickness, and when twelve years old prevailed on her father to allow her to keep house for him. He was delighted with all her efforts, and not sparing of his praise. She made butter, cheese, raised chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese in large numbers, managed the garden and fruit, and all the proceeds she saved to complete her education. She took great pains to learn the best way to do everything, and enjoyed both the indoor and outdoor responsibility. Thus was the foundation laid for the versatility in labor which characterized her later life.

When fourteen, becoming proficient in household matters, she decided that she could teach, in addition to discharging her duties as housekeeper. With daily convincing proofs of her wonderful energy and perseverance, and knowledge of her excellent scholarship, she was engaged to teach in her home district. She continued these double duties until the homestead was sold and she, with her father, made her home with Mrs. Nash. The two sisters were like mother and daughter, and their devotion was always very beautiful. Her next teaching was in a neighboring district, and Miss Gregory taught in the home school, boarding with Mrs. Nash. Miss Wood, as she was then called, rode "Greg" back and forth to her school. "Greg" was a magnificent, high-spirited horse which she had broken as a colt. She continued teaching until she had sufficient money to pay her expenses through a course of study at Albany Normal School, New York, entering the senior year on examination, and graduating at the age of twenty-three in the same class

by the illness and death of her mother, but by the medical schools at that time admitted women students, she was forced to abandon the idea. The substitution of teaching as a profession did not extinguish the original intent, which was cherished as a possibility to be achieved when she should have opportunity and leisure; but it was the origin of the motives which led to her future investigation of the general status of women, especially the lack of advantages for higher education, and to the determination to use her influence for the establishment of schools which would afford women opportunities to prepare for professions or for any line of practical work.

After graduating from the Normal, she taught until symptoms of consumption made it necessary to seek a change of climate. An acquaintance, in correspondence, had alluded to the lack of educational facilities in the "New West." This led to correspondence with Judge Wilson, an acquaintance of Mr. Nash, at Mt. Carroll, and to the decision that that young and promising village could be a desirable place for the proposed school. Nothing daunted by insecure health, the hardships, inconveniences, or privations of a sparsely settled country, or the sacrifices of pioneer life, Miss Wood and her friend Miss Gregory undertook the long journey to Illinois, found the right sphere for the activities of mind and heart, and became the founders of a school which for forty-two years was known as Mount Carroll Seminary.

The first term opened May 11, 1853, with eleven pupils, and ended with thirty. For the next term the demand for accommodations from non-resident pupils was sufficient to warrant plans for a permanent school, and this idea of permanency was one of the corner-stones in the original design of the founders. To some of the more progressive residents of the village the outlook was so bright that they were desirous of assuming some of the honors and emoluments of the enterprise; therefore a charter was obtained from the legislature, a stock company formed, \$3,000 paid, five acres of ground purchased, and a building forty-four feet square—the present Center—commenced in the summer and opened in October, 1854, with Miss Wood and Miss Gregory

salaried teachers under the control of a board of trustees. Both sexes were admitted, and the new building was dedicated with twenty-five boarders and about twice as many day-pupils.

As only one-third of the subscriptions had been paid, money for the building was borrowed from an eastern capitalist. The furnishings were far more expensive than anticipated, and at the expiration of six months the stockholders were confronted with interest coupons instead of dividends. The trustees, unable to collect unpaid subscriptions, became discouraged, and offered the building and furnishings to the not-discouraged principals for the contract price of the building, the free use of the ground for five years, and permission to improve the grounds, if they would promise to continue the school for ten years. At the end of five years the trustees would either pay for the added improvements or sell the land at a reasonable price. The proposition was accepted. In order to obviate questions of title which might arise on account of the transfer, a new charter was secured, vesting all rights in the new proprietors, who gave a personal note for \$4,500, with interest at 10 per cent. These notes were ultimately paid by Miss Wood, who borrowed the money from her brother-in-law, Mr. Nash, after using the small inheritance which came to her from her father's estate. This was the beginning of the financial burden and management which Mrs. Shimer carried through all the years of her connection with the school. The debt for the furnishings was voluntarily liquidated by issuing scholarships to those trustees who had assumed that portion of the original indebtedness.

Improvements were immediately commenced on the grounds, fences built, and the "five-acre field," destitute of tree, shrub, or bush—except some hazel-brush—was dotted with evergreens and deciduous trees, whose towering tops and stalwart trunks are today landmarks and the pride of the campus. Fruit-bearing trees and bushes and vines were also planted with a lavish hand, although expensive and transported long distances; yet the members of the "Seminary family," more than a quarter of a century afterward, were enjoying their fruitage. Flowers, walks, and drives attested woman's presence and intuition. Time lent its aid, and the work went on despite the oft-repeated prophecies of failure. Miss Wood knew

every bush, tree, and vine, for all were planted under her oversight; and so successfully had she applied her knowledge of horticulture that at the end of five years the trustees declared that the permanent improvements on the five acres were too expensive for them to purchase, and, as the school had been equally prosperous, they signified their approbation by donating the land to the Seminary.

In 1857 an addition doubled the accommodations for boarders. In 1866 the crowded condition necessitated the exclusion of young men, and the school afterward continued a "seminary for young ladies." In 1867 a second "L" was added. The old schoolroom was remodeled for the much-needed library, and the upper story of the new building given up to piano-rooms and a studio to meet the requirements of the rapidly increasing music and art departments. Accommodations were none too great, for the Seminary family that year numbered one hundred, besides a liberal patronage of day-pupils. In 1876 the third and last addition was completed, being the whole of the present "East Hall," which again nearly doubled the number of rooms.

This remarkable prosperity and growth of the school was due partly to economic conditions, partly to the advantages offered and the character of the school, but more than all to the personality of the founders and the supervision of Mrs. Shimer. There were no supernatural gifts to make progress steady and success permanent, only the ability and willingness to make the best use of those powers with which they were endowed. Success was the natural sequence of steady, painstaking, unselfish devotion to a purpose, viz., to build up a school which should be a force and an uplifting power, and increase the chances for contentment and prosperity by making more capable teachers and home-makers. While the external development was due to one woman, the nature and character of the school was not exclusively the work of Mrs. Shimer, although every department was permeated with her influence and inspiration. Her enthusiasm spurred others on when they would have flagged. She was the counselor, the sustained ambition that never lost courage, that held on with quiet, resolute firmness, the source from which all associates drew strength and vigor. During the earliest years Miss Gregory was a most able co-worker,

a superior instructor, and particularly qualified to drill prospective teachers in Normal methods. Later, Mrs. Hazzen, by building up the music department, and Miss Joy, by developing the broader policy of modern education, were valuable coadjutors.

When the school opened, and for years afterward, there were few if any high schools or normal schools to train teachers. / Not only was there strenuous opposition, of a degree difficult to imagine in this age of co-education, to the admission of women to colleges and professional schools, but the pioneer population had little money to spend for artistic culture and higher education; hence, for the majority, the intermittent, ungraded district school was the only source for an education. The Seminary, by providing a "home school" affording opportunities for advanced and artistic culture, and in providing a way for those of limited means to secure these advantages, created an increasing demand for its line of work by answering a demand. The established reputation for thoroughness in academic work, the reflex influence of the success of graduates and undergraduates in practical life, fostered by judicious advertising, drew to it a patronage from many states, the territory widening with the lapse of years.

From 1869 to 1872 might be called the "transition period" of the Seminary, brought about by circumstances and demands. Mrs. Shimer was broad-minded enough to give the reins to those who showed special fitness to hold them. Different departments took shape under the direction of teachers prepared for special lines of work; thus by "specializing," a desire to reach higher standards and higher ideals was engendered and realized. A teacher said, after she left the school: "It is not so much *what they do* at Mount Carroll Seminary, as the high ideals they try to create." The course of study has always been in advance of the demand, even in special and technical departments, dating from the time when Mrs. Shimer brought the first piano into the county.

The mere acquisition of knowledge was by no means the extent of its curriculum. Its underlying principle was that the training of intellect should be paralleled by the training of character. With love of books, music, and art should be instilled ideals of sincerity, thoroughness, direct purpose, and self-reliance. A

comprehension of the wonders of nature should lead to the understanding of self in order to make the most and best of life. With the mysterious laws of science should be associated the inflexible laws of influence and example. Not cramming for examinations, but preparing for the real duties of life, was the standard of excellence. Though none were assured of attaining ideals, all were made confident of being better for the strife. If the standard sometimes demanded too much, it never erred by being satisfied with too little. The high standing of the school attracted teachers of the best talent. Mrs. Shimer had the faculty of making all connected with the school feel that they were individually responsible for its reputation and success. The loyalty of teachers and pupils has been the subject of general comment.

With no changes in the management, personal interest, daily care and supervision supplied the essentials of home environment, health, habits, correct tastes, and morals. The discipline was uplifting and strengthening. Reproof was given in a manner which left the violator with a desire to reform, rather than humiliated and vindictive, but a pupil who, after trial and gentle admonition, was not in accord with the spirit of the school, and manifested no disposition to uphold the standard of required conduct, was sent home.

The manual labor department, obligatory on none, but open to those desirous of economizing in expenses, enabled scores of self-supporting young women to enjoy privileges from which they would otherwise have been financially debarred, and also brought to the school pupils of superior ability and determination. In Mrs. Shimer's estimation, one of the best credentials a pupil could furnish was proof of a desire for an education, a lack of money to meet expenses, and a willingness to help herself. Her sympathies were ever with this class, and the assistance rendered was such as would inspire self-reliance, not humiliate, weaken, or pauperize. To one applicant she wrote: "We labor ourselves, and honor the faithful laborer in every department of industry." Many recipients of the favors of this department testify that the financial aid was secondary to the training given in the conscientious discharge of duties, and that the kindly words of encouragement and counsel.

uttered by one whose practice exemplified her precepts, exceeded in value loans and discounts.

As most of the ministers in the West were "home missionaries," special discounts were made to daughters of all clergymen, and also, after the civil war, to daughters of soldiers. Free tuition in the normal department was given to one teacher from each county. Other things being equal, the positions of matron, housekeeper, and laundress were given to widows having daughters to educate. Pupils of creditable scholarship were privileged to give personal notes, drawing no interest for the first year, for a portion of their expenses. The value and wisdom of these various forms of financial aid were evidenced by the number and class of beneficiaries, and by the faithfulness and promptness with which such obligations were discharged.

How wisely Mrs. Shimer planned, and how well the school has fulfilled its fourfold purpose, is demonstrated by the long life of the institution, the material growth in realty and patronage, the large number of graduates and positions filled by them, and the hundreds of homes, from Maine to California, happier and better for the discipline and training which had their origin in the simple rules and regulations of the *Alma Mater*.

To those who have had experience in the building up and maintenance of private schools, it is a fact of considerable significance that, during the forty-three years that Mrs. Shimer was in charge of Mount Carroll Seminary, there was never an appeal to the public for financial aid, and not a dollar contributed to its support for which the giver did not receive a full equivalent, except the gift of the original five acres. While other schools of a similar nature were petitioning for endowments, employing agents to solicit funds, and, failing to receive, were obliged to close their doors, she, hampered by the undeveloped condition and inconveniences of a new country, remote from supplies, with a large family to provide for, unaided by hearty co-operation of the community premonished on every side with assurances of failure, not only established a good school, but maintained it, and made it a remunerative enterprise and a recognized force in educational circles. The material development, while of utmost importance and occ

giving so large a portion of her time, was not the soul of her work and ambition, nor her chief delight. The real thing was the school. Neither did her tastes lead her to select this business life from choice or preference. She knew that maintenance and perpetuity depended on the strictest economy and attention to details. The odds against her, because a woman, were not trifling. A public unaccustomed to the innovation of "woman in business," if not openly expressing its disapproval in words and actions, retired behind an attitude of cool indifference, and to succeed where men failed was a greater offense. She felt keenly the chill, yet hers was the true noblesse of character.

It required the most exact skill in finances to meet obligations. In the purchase of household supplies in large quantities a very trifling difference in price was a matter of so great importance that a single transaction might turn the scale for ultimate failure or success, and, to those who did not know the facts, might seem unnecessary economy. Purchases of land, or unimproved lands taken for school indebtedness, were utilized in raising fruits, grain, and stock for the school consumption. Mrs. Shimer valued money and possessions not for herself, but for what they would do for the school. She had no desire for extravagant or ostentatious display; her tastes, habits, dress were marked with rare simplicity.

Few of those who profited by the advantages of the school knew the cost in strenuous labor, personal sacrifice, planning, thought, and time (reserving daily a scant four hours for sleep) which were the magic forces used by Mrs. Shimer to win success. Work in the open air had apparently restored her health, enabling her to supervise every department of outdoor work, attending to her correspondence at night. This implied not only an expenditure of time and strength, but the sacrifice of time for study, reading, society, and recreation. Intense in whatever she undertook, her plans were always on a large scale, and with a view to the future. They were invariably revolved and re-revolved, viewed from all points, changed, and modified, until not only the best results should follow, but in such wise as to secure them with the least expenditure of time and effort. On account of this careful deliberation, she was extremely reticent about conferring with

others concerning her plans. She seldom worked for immediate or short-lived results; hence those who were ignorant of, or did not understand, her motives, and those who were less gifted in forecasting results, looked askance, or openly criticised projects which in the end proved to be the wisest thing which could have been done. She never rushed blindly or uninformed into any scheme.

Her ingenuity and resources were equal to emergencies. Every day brought new combinations and peculiar tests. In 1857 in the midst of building, came the financial panic. Bills could not be collected, banks would not make loans, contractors failed to meet their agreements, laborers refused to work lest they should not be paid. Only the masonry and carpenter work was finished, rooms were engaged for the ensuing year, and the date for opening at hand. Mrs. Shimer—then Miss Wood—bought painting materials, glass, and paper at wholesale, and glazed all the windows, painted all of the new building except the cornice, and painted and repapered most of the rooms in the main building. All was ready for the opening of the term. This work was in addition to the correspondence, bookkeeping, employment of teachers, providing in advance for the year's food, fuel, and furnishings, supervision of the manual labor department, and oversight of the grounds and garden. The *chef d'œuvre* of her executive skill was in 1876, when bids for the construction of the last building were so much in excess of the money resources of the school, and the demand for room so urgent, as to tax to the utmost the ingenuity of the proprietor. The outcome was that the stone was quarried, timber cut, lumber sawed, and brick manufactured from land which she owned or purchased, by machinery which she bought for the purpose, and by men in her employ. She was architect, and superintendent of all the details of construction, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and lighting. The building completed cost considerably less than the lowest bid.

This glimpse of Mrs. Shimer's lifework speaks for itself. She was an extraordinary woman—extraordinary in the endowment of natural gifts—physical and mental vigor, unbounded enthusiasm, wonderful perseverance, fearless courage, cheerful optimism, generous impulses, excellent judgment, and good common-sense,

extraordinary in acquired talents and the gift of knowing how to use natural gifts—skill and versatility in achievements, thorough equipment for all kinds of work, imperious mastery of circumstances, penetrating accuracy in reading human nature; extraordinary in personality—buoyancy of spirit blended with sternness of principle, extreme simplicity and singular modesty united with unreined ambition and indomitable will; extraordinary in business dealings—ability to undertake and consummate great enterprises, adroitness to probe a project for motives, cleverness to foresee the finality of a negotiation, punctiliousness in claiming deserts as in discharging obligations. With a well trained, logical mind, quick to comprehend and keen to grasp all sides of a question, she combined a feminine intensity and attention to details that gave fervor and force to all she did.

Few people really knew Mrs. Shimer. The multiplicity of demands upon her time developed a conciseness, brevity, and directness in speech and action which some interpreted as sternness and austerity. Others thought her cold and unapproachable. Greater mistakes were never made, and could arise only from ignorance, for she was the most genial, affable companion, the sincerest and warmest of friends.

Her many-sided character was too frequently judged from the standpoint of the observer. Those who met her in business relations recognized her efficiency, executive ability, tact to achieve results, courage to face opposition, faculty to comprehend advantages or disadvantages; but in such dealings they had no glimpse of the gentle woman, the motherly heart, the self-sacrificing, generous spirit which prompted every action. They saw the clear gray eye scan critically a business proposition, or flash with resentment at an infringement of fair dealing; but they did not see it when it beamed with kindness or melted with tenderness, when sickness or sorrow called for sympathy. They saw the firm mouth and lips, which in a few words could state and close a business transaction; but they did not hear them when they whispered words which gladdened a heart bowed down, quickened a failing pulse, lifted a load of sorrow. They marked the alertness to profit by competition in trade, but did not know her earnest enjoyment in applying the

profits to provide a way for deserving girls to obtain an education. The general public viewed her lifework as one watches a gallant vessel breasting the waves; but how few saw the pilot whose hand, nor night nor day, left the helm, but steered right onward in darkness and in storm, or the captain with chart, compass, and line, making soundings to find a path mid hidden rocks and treacherous whirlpools, or the one who fed the fires and controlled the machinery. Those in her employ knew that she exacted faithful service with the least waste of time and labor; but they did not realize that it was the conservation of these forces, and making one thing help another, which was the secret of her success. They knew that, when misfortune came, no time was wasted in regret or delay in restoration; but even though they saw the Phoenix rise, they did not know with what heart-agony the ashes of disappointed hopes were fanned into flame. Teachers knew and pupils felt that the atmosphere of the school was charged with her enthusiasm and earnestness; but they did not know to what extent the supply was kept up by the sacrifice of leisure, recreation, and intellectual pursuits. For fourteen years she performed her share of class-room duties, and as a teacher her influence was especially felt. An enthusiast herself in study, she possessed a gift of imparting and drawing out the best in others, an influence undoubtedly greater than pupils realized at the time.

It is not an easy thing to estimate her influence; for that which goes into character and home life is less likely to be made a matter of record than many less important impressions in education, for they touch silent and unobserved forces, and are too subtle to be traced. Mrs. Shimer knew that much of her influence was "far from the madding crowd," that her returns were not sight drafts, that her books could not be balanced until succeeding generations should audit the accounts, but she was content to wait for the fuller recognition that time would bring.

Only those who knew her most intimately were cognizant of her extreme reticence in matters relating to herself. Her sister died with cancer, and for more than thirty years Mrs. Shimer watched the approach of what she supposed was the same disease. An abscess on her side increased the fear. In later years she told

how she sat at her desk and translated the
clinch her hands or wound her lips to stifled expressions of pain,
and attended to correspondence when she could not rise unaided
from her chair, and when every breath was like a dagger in her
side. One needs to know her shrinking from and extreme dread of
malignant disease to understand the mental as well as the physical
agonies of those years, a suffering no less acute because uncom-
municated. Just before going south the last time, a microscopical
examination revealed that her disease was tuberculosis. Her life
in the open air, her abstemious habits, her winters in the south, had
stayed the progress of a disease no less serious than the one she
feared. Also it was only her intimate acquaintances who knew her
timidity and dread of publicity. She would endure almost beyond
endurance rather than be the cynosure of curious eyes. She often
remarked that the publicity of commencement time was more of
an ordeal than all the business of a year. On account of this
sensitiveness, pressure of business was an excuse to shrink more
and more from publicity. Even when a frank, open explanation of
facts and existing conditions would have vindicated beyond ques-
tion her wisdom and good judgment, she suffered in silence rather
than volunteer the statements. Neither did her retiring disposi-
tion seek public recognition and honors, though she possessed gifts
and acquirements which would have been an ample endowment for
highest honors. It was enough that she knew how to make it
possible for others to be happier, wiser, better.

To her companions only she unveiled the softer charms of
refined womanhood, the graces of sociability, the delights of con-
versation, the flash of repartee and wit. Though great in the
sterner duties of life, she was even greater in womanliness. She
never forgot a kindness, yet never held a grudge or cherished a
spite. She was quick to resent an imposition, and equally prompt
to atone for error. Unkind words, flung by heedless tongues, which
had no "remedy at law," deeply wounded her; still she knew how
to forgive as well as endure. If she were conscious of unjust treat-
ment, the offender, in future dealings, was met with distrust, not by
antagonism. She did not assume a cordiality she could not feel,
for she was too free from hypocrisy to mask her real opinions with

a pretense of friendship. Those in trouble or in need of sympathy knew that no truer friend, no kindlier-hearted woman ever lived. Her life was not all sunshine, yet she never turned the shadow to the world. The public knew nothing of her sorrows, for, with too much true pride to air personal matters, she never resorted to personal explanations, deeming mere words puny weapons to vindicate from charges which the whole tenor of her life contradicted. Perhaps if sorrows had not come she would have been less a conqueror. Disappointment may have been the path to victories; as conflict roused her best and highest powers, so trials may have given them direction.

The acquaintance with Henry Shimer began in 1855. He was a stonemason, and assisted in building during the panic, but his ambition, his mental ability, his energy and enthusiasm, his interest in science, his efforts in self-improvement, his zeal in church work, won more than a passing interest and approbation from his employer, and they were married in December, 1857. Although an instructor and lecturer in the school for several years, he was never a copartner in any of the responsibilities, burdens, or interests of the school. His tastes and predilections developed in directions opposite to hers, his ideals being egotistic, and his ambitions finding complete gratification in his own personal lines of work—his profession and scientific investigations. Another disappointment culminated in 1871, when the partnership with Miss Gregory was dissolved by her withdrawal. Notwithstanding Mrs. Shimer's great strength of character and apparent independence, being as intense in her attachments as in her work, she was peculiarly dependent on some one to love, some object of her affections who would reciprocate with sympathetic companionship. Therefore, to be left with the entire responsibility of the school, to undergo the ordeal of public comment and interpretation, with no one on whom she could rely for encouragement or counsel, or to whom she could turn with an assurance of sympathy and congenial companionship—this was the darkest hour of her life.

It was not toil or responsibility or doubt of success, but disappointment and the sense of isolation and utter loneliness which seemed greater than she could bear. She sought respite from a

future finances seemed assured, and after the prime of life, when recuperation is more irksome than first acquisition. It was the more keenly felt, for this "purse of Fortunatus" was intended for the dower of her child—the Seminary—when she could no longer provide for its maintenance. With much of the vigor of those youthful days, she began to plan to retrieve losses, laboring, if possible, more assiduously than ever, asserting again and again that she had "no time to rest." An accident from which she never recovered frustrated the execution of plans. Could she have had for active work the five years that were spent in helpless inactivity on her reclining chair, a larger part of the loss would have been recovered.

As Mrs. Shimer approached her seventieth year, conscious of waning activities, and feeling the weight of responsibilities which she had carried for nearly half a century, her anxiety for the future of the school increased. It was her lifework, and she felt for it the strong, deep, deathless solicitude of a mother for an only child. To secure its perpetuity, a transfer of the school property, with twenty-five acres, was made in 1896 to a board of trustees, and the name changed from Mount Carroll Seminary to "The Frances Shimer Academy of the University of Chicago." It was her hope that, as her life waned, new energy and vigor would come to the school from its new environments, and it is a tribute to her that her passing away makes no break in the continuity of the school. Mrs. Shimer never revisited the school nor left her adopted state after she relinquished the title and management. A fall in February, 1897, injured her hip; and, though confined to her bed and chair, she continued a large part of her business correspondence, and directed extensive interests connected with property both north and south. But years of unremitting toil and anxieties had taxed and exhausted her nervous vitality. There was no manifested disease, only a gradual decline of nature's forces. It was inevitable that one who had given herself so generously should herself be spent. The nervous shock attending a second accident hastened the end.

With the change to the peacefulness and comparative freedom of private life, her intellectual and social gifts, which had been held in abeyance, were more prominent. The concise, decisive manner of

Her helplessness under special favors genial social conversation. Her helplessness under the most thoughtful for others and augmented her desire to make every one around her happy. She was her old self, bright, interested and interesting, but softened by life's experiences. From her chair she wrote: "I have become such a shirk, but do not think I am leading an idle life altogether, you have no idea how busy I am and how the days fly. I cannot accomplish one-third I want to day by day." "It seems strange that my life should be always so full of work and yet what I have accomplished more acquaintances in this planned." "I have made and enjoyed more in fifty years of my old 'shut in' period than I would have done in a luxury I have been so long time denied."

The fourth day preceding her death she was unusually bright and cheerful. At dinner her geniality, her conversation, her bright repartee, surprised her companions. As twilight approached she appeared weary, and proposed retiring early. She did not fall asleep at once, but her mind wandered. She talked in a low voice to herself without completed sentences, and her smile indicated that her thoughts were of a pleasing nature. When she slept, it was a long slumber of two days and three nights, ending Sunday morning, November 10, 1901, at quarter before six o'clock, when she awakened in another world. The night was past, the day had come; at last there was "time to rest."

Her will provides for personal bequests—among others to Mrs. Hazzen and Miss Joy, the former twenty-seven and the latter twenty-four years actively connected with the school, as evidence of her remembrance of their long service and valuable assistance. The residue of her estate constitutes a perpetual endowment for the Academy, being held in trust by her executors. Her interest in self-supporting girls is reaffirmed by the request that leniency shall be shown to those yet in arrears for school expenses, but she does not impair their self-respect by canceling debts of honor.

Dr. Shimer died in 1895, leaving his estate by devise to her for educational purposes. She followed his desires in the distribution of his personal bequests; but the remainder, which becomes a part of the endowment of the Academy, was lessened by the litigation

which attended the settlement of his estate. In referring to her own life and work, Mrs. Shimer never overestimated or boasted of attainments. She frequently expressed regret that she had not been able to accomplish more, satisfaction in having been useful, and grief that she had been misunderstood and misjudged. The success of pupils was to her a never-ending source of pride; their expressions of gratitude and appreciation, the evidence that their *Alma Mater* was revered and remembered, were ample reward for her effort and sacrifice.

Her remains were interred amid the scenes of her work and achievements. They rest in the quiet cemetery which overlooks the Academy and the intervening town. A monument of granite marks the spot; but the real monument of her life is on the opposite eminence, where towers the creation of her hands, heart, and brain. She has yet another memorial, an invisible one, whose inscription is written in "minds made better by her presence." What structure of stone or bronze, which seasons waste and time corrodes, can equal the imperishable monument of her influence! Of the thousands of young persons who were to any degree molded by the influence of the school, now dwelling in every state of the union, and some across the seas, each is a part of her memorial. Each in her own experience can trace the lines of light that connect her life with the shrine of her *Alma Mater*. Many, looking back over victories achieved because of contact with a strong, intense, helpful life, may say, as did Charles Kingsley when questioned how he was able to accomplish so much, "I had a friend." One pupil, speaking for herself, yet speaking truthfully for scores of others, said: "I wish I were able to find expression for my gratitude to Mrs. Shimer. She will stand among a few others who have given me the highest view of human life and its possibilities."

Her work was nobly done, an honor to the womanhood of our country. To a few only is a public memory vouchsafed; but so long as this school exists, Mrs. Shimer will live

"In minds made better by her influence,
In pulses stirred to generosity,
In deeds of daring rectitude, in triumph
Over ignoble aims that end in self."

Funeral Services

DeLand, Florida.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1901, AT 3 P. M., AT SANS SOUCI COTTAGE.

PRAYER - University Quartette.
 HYMN, "Abide with Me," - Professor Sharp, Professor Rosa.
 Miss Webb, Miss Maxwell, Chaplain W. H. Stewart, U. S. N.
 READING OF THE FUNERAL SERVICE, - Miss Webb.
 Song, "My Ain Countrie," - Chaplain W. H. Stewart, U. S. N.
 ADDRESS - University Quartette.
 "Hold Thou My Hand," words by Frances Havergal,
 PRAYER.

The Academy Chapel.

From The Standard.

MRS. FRANCES A. W. SHIMER died in DeLand, Fla., November

10. Mrs. Shimer founded Mount Carroll Seminary, now the Frances Shimer Academy, in 1853, and retained control of the institution until 1896, when it was transferred to a board of trustees consisting of Mt. Carroll and Chicago people.

Mrs. Shimer was born in Milton, Saratoga county, N. Y., August 21, 1826. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wood. She taught and studied at intervals until she was twenty-three years old, when she graduated from the Stillwater Academy, and the State Normal School at Albany, N. Y. She continued her chosen profession of teaching for two years, when, her health becoming impaired, she came West in the spring of 1853, landing at Mt. Carroll. In company with Miss C. M. Gregory, she opened a private school in an old brick building. The citizens of Mt. Carroll projected the plan of establishing a seminary by a joint stock company. After a new building had been partially constructed, some of the stockholders suggested turning the property

over to Miss Wood and Gregory, on condition that they pay the indebtedness, finish up the building and establish the Seminary, all of which they were enabled to do through the financial assistance of Mr. Nash, a brother-in-law of Miss Wood.

December 21, 1857, Miss Frances A. Wood was married to Henry Shimer, A.M., who became mathematical instructor at the Seminary. In 1870 Mrs. Shimer bought out the interest of Miss Gregory in the Seminary, and became the sole owner. until, by reason of age and its accompanying infirmities, she transferred it to the trustees of the University of Chicago as affiliated Academy, and retired to spend her remaining days in Florida. Mrs. Shimer was a remarkable woman, careful, conscientious, and an earnest Christian. She was a member of the Baptist church of Mt. Carroll.

The funeral was held in the Academy chapel at Mt. Carroll, Ill., November 14. The house was filled with friends and acquaintances. The school sat in a body toward the rear. Some beautiful floral offerings were presented. The exercises were opened with an invocation by Rev. A. K. Parker, D.D., president of the board of trustees of the Academy. The quartette sang, "Abide with Me." The scripture was read by Rev. C. C. Lovejoy, pastor of the Methodist church of Mt. Carroll. Prayer was offered by Rev. Judson Kempton, pastor of the Baptist church. Miss Miles sang "One Sweetly Solemn Thought." T. W. Goodspeed, D.D., secretary of the board of trustees, made the first address. He prefaced his remarks with resolutions that had been adopted by the board of trustees in a special meeting called for that purpose. These resolutions recited the services that Mrs. Shimer had rendered to education for women in the West, and laid emphasis upon the contribution she had made in the development of the character of the great number of pupils committed to her charge. The resolutions made grateful recognition of the financial assistance as well as the considerate attention given by Mrs. Shimer to the Academy since she had given up its control. Dr. Goodspeed went on to call special attention to the great length of time during which Mrs. Shimer had followed her chosen work, and emphasized the great usefulness of the work she did in dealing with pupils in the formative period of life.

Once McKee said that Mrs. Shimer's life was an illustration of what women could do for women. She began her work when the higher schools in the country did not receive women. Her work further enabled them to give her added strength; instead of wearing her out her work nourished her, increasing her power. She taught it for the love of its fruits. The simplicity of her life left untold energy to enrich the lives of others. She made service to others the controlling purpose of her endeavor. She lives a larger life in the self-development she has made possible in her pupils. She imparted herself to them, but greater than this she enabled them to express the best within themselves.

Rev. J. P. Philips, formerly her pastor in Mt. Carroll, spoke of the interest she had in the church as teacher and Sunday school superintendent, kindly adviser and generous contributor. She was the first to make a large subscription to rebuild the meeting house. She was fond of children, and of all living things. She was happy among the herbs, plants, and trees, to which she gave much of her time. In the privacy of the home life she exhibited much tenderness of heart and a bountiful generosity which blessed many deserving pupils.

Rev. Edmund Wells, now of Volusia county, Fla., was well acquainted with her in her relations to the people of DeLand. She was respected and loved by all classes. Mention was made of the laboring man clothed by her, of the naval chaplain who made offers of assistance in her sickness, of the Episcopalian rector who enjoyed her conversation, and the president of the John B. Stetson University, who held her in the highest esteem. No good cause in Florida came to her in vain. The great sorrow of her life was the destructive freeze which in a single night carried away thousands of dollars' worth of property in the shape of orange trees, and made it impossible for her to do as much as she had hoped to be able to do for the Academy that bears her name. The quartette then sang, and the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. J. H. Grim, of the United Brethren church of Mt. Carroll. The interment was at Oak Hill cemetery, the exercises at the grave being in charge of Rev. Judson Kempton.

Up through the curved avenue lined like her memory, with evergreen, in the dusk of Wednesday evening, November 14, all that was mortal of Mrs. Frances A. W. Shimer was borne to rest one night, after its three days' journey from Florida, in the halls that had originated in her own brain and been raised at her command. If the spirits of the dead return, hers must have lingered there that night. Did the sougning spruce and pines know that the hand that had planted them was in their midst again? And as, all night, they swung their arms and sighed as the chill west wind played Æolian strains among their branches, did they sing the requiem of the woman, who, when but a girl, had changed a cornfield into a grove where singing birds might nest? We know not, but we know that within the walls of the old Academy that night there was quiet mourning at the loss of one who had taught dumb lives to sing.

Half past ten on Thursday morning was the hour at which friends of the deceased and friends of the institution that bore her name assembled in the hall which contained her silent form to consider her worth and works. The city's business houses had closed for the occasion. The concourse was composed largely of Frances Shimer students, past or present, and their parents and friends, so that the company had more the spirit of a family gathering than of a public assemblage.

On the platform before the life-size oil painting of Mrs. Shimer, sat Drs. Goodspeed and Parker, representing the University of Chicago; Dean W. P. McKee, Revs. Wells and Philips, former pastors; and Revs. Grim, Lovejoy, and Kempton, local pastors. Each of these had some part in the appropriate exercises of the hour. The addresses were made by Dr. Goodspeed, Dean McKee, Rev. E. Wells, and Rev. J. P. Philips. These addresses were worthy of the character whose strength and achievements they praised. The music was furnished by Misses Mary Miles and Nellie Foster in solos, and the Miles quartette, and all blended well, both as to selections and sympathetic rendering, with the other parts of the memorial service.

At noon the procession of carriages moved through the streets

of Mt. Carroll, bearing to Oak Hill the city's most distinguished, most widely known, most useful citizen. At the cemetery, in the presence of a circling company who realized that a noble spirit had finished a noble toil and passed, Rev. Judson Kempton read a short burial service, "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust," and the company dispersed to scatter to distant parts, never to meet again, but to carry with them another proof that—

"We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."





EAST HALL.

The Memorial Service at the First Baptist Church.

SUNDAY services at the First Baptist church were all reminiscent of Mrs. F. A. W. Shimer, who has been for a half-century a member of that organization. The church fully recognized the fact that she has been one of its greatest benefactors as well as its most distinguished member. The organ was artistically draped with purple and black, and, as Mrs. Rogers brought out its sweet tones in the opening voluntary, all present recalled the fact that the instrument had been a gift of Mrs. Shimer. The platform was beautified with cut flowers and potted plants, decorations having been in the hands of the Ladies' Aid Society.

The pastor, Rev. Judson Kempton, read a letter written by Mrs. Shimer two years ago on the occasion of the church Roll Call, in which she gave the society her note for \$1,000, under terms by which its interest would accrue to the church as long as it exists. In a few words the pastor commended this action as being far-sighted and wise, and referred to her other gifts, the organ, and a large subscription at the time the building was destroyed by a cyclone, and also to the fact that Mrs. Shimer was instrumental in organizing the Sunday school, and was for years its superintendent.

The sermon was preached by Rev. Edmund Wells, of Florida, for eight years pastor in Mt. Carroll, from the subject: "Honor to Whom Honor is Due." It was thoughtful in its summing up the lifework of Mrs. Shimer; it was in good taste in its eulogy; it was striking and interesting in its illustration, and it was heard with appreciation by many old acquaintances and friends of the speaker as well as by those who composed the usual Sunday morning congregation. The music of the memorial service was especially worthy of note. Mr. Judson Miles sang a short opening solo, "Who Shall Abide," which was followed by the "Gloria." The Miles Quartette sang an anthem, "God of My Life." There was a trio, "Father, Lead Me;" and at the close of the service a duet, "Hark, Hark, My Soul," by Miss Nellie Foster and Mrs. Jacob Miles.

Address by T. W. Goodspeed, D.D., of The
University of Chicago.

I SPEAK on this occasion with considerable reluctance and embarrassment, because of my lack of intimate personal knowledge of Mrs. Shimer. I met her not more than four or five times, and then somewhat formally and officially. And while I do not, on that account, speak formally and perfunctorily, but with real interest, I cannot but feel that it is a time for those to speak who knew her long and loved her well. It would be impossible for me to speak with intelligence of her life and character as they were known to long-time friends; but, looking at her career as the world knows it, I am impressed with the large usefulness of her life. It is of this life that I wish to speak — the large usefulness of such a life.

Let us consider, in the first place, the many years she gave to the work to which she devoted her life. I think we may consider thirty years a full day's work for the ordinary life. It is only now and then that one continues his labors in one calling for forty years. It is so exceptional as to cause one to wonder when one labors in the same field of effort for half a century. But to Mrs. Shimer it was given to do the still more exceptional thing of giving fifty-five years of labor to the cause of education. Surely such a life must have been one of large usefulness.

Consider, in the second place, the nature of the work she did. All honest labor is useful. I often think, as I pass along the streets of the city and see the bootblacks and the newsboys pursuing their work, what necessary and useful service they are rendering to the community. The merchant conducting the exchanges of the community, the farmer raising bread for the world, these do most useful service. But, after all, the noblest service is done by those who train the mind into an instrument of power, and develop character into likeness to the divine. This is the work of

the teacher. This was the work of Mrs Shimer. To this work of training the intellect, of cultivating character, and seeking to transform it into beauty and nobleness, Mrs. Shimer gave more than fifty years of labor. This was indeed a life of *largest usefulness*.

Let us recall, in the third place, how large a number she thus reached and benefited. Nearly half a century ago she established this school. For perhaps ten years before she had been teaching, and had already helped many to a larger and better life. But her great work was done here. Here she built up a large and flourishing school. Here she gathered a corps of earnest teachers through whom she reached her pupils. Some of these teachers whom I have known were women of such beauty and nobility of character that they must have helped and blessed every pupil who came under their care. And their pupils were not numbered by the score, but by the hundreds and the thousands.

The mother who trains her children up into worthy men and women lives a beautiful and useful life. Her children rise up and call her blessed. And who can measure the usefulness of the teacher and the organizer of education who sends out into the world hundreds whose minds have been cultivated, and whose characters have been ennobled through her work. This was the work Mrs. Shimer did. She reached, she helped, she blessed, she prepared for useful living hundreds of pupils.

Let us remember, in the fourth place, that her work was done for these pupils in just those years during which the character is formed. It is the mother, the Sunday school, the teacher, those who work with the young, who cultivate the fruitful soil.

At the battle of Alma the allied army advanced against the Russians in two columns, the French on the right, the English on the left. Lord Raglan, the English commander, rode forward with his staff between the two wings toward the center of the enemy's position. The battle was raging on either side of him, but, meeting no opposition, he advanced until he came out on a hilltop, far in advance of his line of battle, and looked down on the flank and rear of the Russians on either side. Ordering up two guns and opening fire on the Russian flank and rear, he made

the field untenable for his foe and won the day. In the great battle between good and evil in this world the teacher of the young holds this advanced position, this point of vantage. Mrs. Shimer did her work among the young. She wrought among those who were from ten to twenty years of age, just that period of life when hearts are open, when habits are being formed, when character can be most easily influenced and molded. If she had sought to do evil, how disastrous would have been her influence. But she labored to do good and only good, to train these young minds in good learning; to instil into these young hearts good thoughts and worthy purposes; to mold these young lives into likeness to the divine. In these formative years she labored with every advantage, and in this school multitudes of young lives were molded into grace and purity and beauty.

Let us consider, in the last place, how such an influence as this multiplies itself for good. Many of you will recall that little book of Edward Everett Hale, *Ten Times One Is Ten*, which tells how ten noble souls banded themselves together to attempt to win the world to noble living. Each of the ten was to find ten others to join the movement, and each of these hundred to find ten more, and thus the world was to be won. The work of the teacher, of the organizer of education, is like this. It is an effort to save the world. And through the renewed and divine lives it sends out into the world, it multiplies its influence for good. Thus was the influence of Mrs. Shimer multiplied and carried far abroad. Her influence for good, her usefulness, is not to be measured by the direct work she did for individuals. Out from under her influence, and inspired by the high purposes born in this school, went many who trained up families to honor God and bless the world, teachers who carried blessing far and wide, missionaries who turned many to righteousness in the distant places of the earth. Through all these and many more besides, she of whom we speak today has sent her influence for good around the world. She has laid down her work, but through all these, and through all those whom they have helped, her useful work goes on. She, being dead, yet speaketh, and she will continue to speak and live for good and for God while the world stands.

Address by Dean William P. McKee of the Frances Shimer Academy.

It was my privilege to enjoy the hospitality of Mrs. Shimer in her home in DeLand, Fla., for a week in the winter of 1899-1900. Beyond that, the letters I have received from her comprise all my acquaintance with her. I cannot, therefore, speak out of the fullness of experience as others can and do.

Mrs. Shimer's life suggests to me, in general, what a woman may do for women. When she began her work the colleges of the Christian world were closed to women, almost without exception. She was a pioneer in offering to women the advantages of the higher education. She was one of the few to foresee the necessity that this should be done for the advantage of the home, and of society at large. With what success she carried out her idea we all know.

Her long and industrious career is a comment also on the life-giving qualities of work. She worked incessantly. I am told that much of it was done in the open air, and this fact doubtless increased her physical vigor. She gave a vast amount of time to the details of general administration, to matters of business merely. And her work continued almost to the very last. The arduous and long continued toil, however, seemed to furnish food on which she grew. The more she worked the greater her capacity for work became.

Her life furnishes an instance in which self-sacrifice became second nature, and was practiced for the love of its fruits. Display and ostentation had no place in her ambition. She lived with great simplicity; she never indulged herself; she practiced frugality; and as a result she had means left to help aspiring people. The wealth she might have employed in luxury and show she used to enrich the lives of young women. It cost her much to do it, but she

...to think of it as a sacrifice; so much did she rejoice in the wealth of character she was allowed to see accumulating in these her children of the school—her progeny of the mind.

She made service to others the controlling purpose of her life. She enjoyed her work, no doubt. She got great satisfaction out of her sense of usefulness and power. No doubt, also, she bettered herself in her work. No one can do the earnest work she did with young people without becoming better in the doing of the work. But though she got all this out of her work for herself, and even though she got still more than this out of it, the fact remains that the work she did made it easier for scores and hundreds of young men and women to grow stronger and better. She ministered to the higher life. She helped the young to develop the very best sides of their natures.

Such a life announces to us anew the stirring truth that life may be multiplied through those we serve. It is one thing to win life eternal for one's self. That she herself survives we cannot doubt, but she lives a larger life in others. And it is worthy of special mention here that the greatest work of the real teacher does not consist in imparting information, but in encouraging the pupil to express his best self in the best way. Mrs. Shimer imparted herself to her pupils; but she did more; she enabled them to develop powers which they possessed, powers which she herself did not possess. She was not a musician, but she brought teacher and pupil together in such a way as to produce music in others. She blessed others, therefore, in imparting her own strong self to them, and in enabling them to express the best within themselves.

We inherit her name and her work. In this place, where her life's labors were done, her memory is precious.

Address by Rev. J. P. Phillips,

TODAY ours is a common sorrow and a common joy, for ours is a common loss and a common possession. How blest the righteous when he dies! for the memory of such is precious.

The vase breaks: the perfume remains; the worker falls by the way, but the work goes on; the clock that strikes out the departing hour, ushers in a new one. A good life passes from among us but its perfume and influence abide, and its ending here is its beginning elsewhere. Our dear friend, the strong and beautiful life, the tireless worker, has gone from earth; but her works remain, and into some place in our Father's home she enters for fuller life and further service. No well-spent life or service end or are lost, for the "beauty of the Lord our God" rests upon them, and He establishes the work for such upon them. Work together with God cannot perish, and the life that is hid with Christ in God is life eternal. To us there is a present loss, but a permanent possession.

And, now, what shall I say? What need I say? What can I say? It is true that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks; but there are times when the abundance makes it hard for the mouth to speak the word that shall be fitly spoken. The shortness of the time and the tenderness of feeling add to the difficulty of choosing one's words wisely; but, however it may be, at this time I shall certainly not speak of the poverty of ignorance, but of the richness of knowledge. She was my friend, I have known her long and intimately; known her to esteem, to love, to trust. Hers was a strong personality, distinct and impressive, seen in whatever light and from whatever point of view.

It is not for me to speak of her public life and work as educator and philanthropist, though I could gladly do so. This has already been appreciatively done, and it is for me to dwell upon that which is less conspicuous and noticeable, but none the less real, upon that which was true and womanly, her kindness and

generosity. Mrs. Shimer was frequently thought and spoken of as an active business manager, the money maker or accumulator of property; and she was intense and successful in the planning and conducting of business affairs; but she was more than this. In the essence of her nature she was a poet, a seer of visions, a dreamer of dreams—not in any weird and sentimental way, but in the true and noble sense that leads to heroic living, earnest endeavor, and hopeful execution. The manifold and successful work that she did in her maturity was but the following after, the seeking to attain and make actual, the aspirations and ideals of maidenhood. She loved everything that had life—plants, animals, children, youth, and age. Flowers, vegetables, shrubs, and trees were loved by her, and they, seeming to appreciate it, at her touch grew into strength and beauty. As regards animals, who ever knew Mrs. Shimer not to have one for a pet? while it was a well-known fact that she loved to take a strong, high-spirited, untrained horse and subdue him, making him become her friend and willing servant. Parents, as myself, know her love for children in the home, and of their affection for her. For youth her whole life energies were in a large part put forth, in witness of her love for and desire to help them. For those with whom she lived and whose affairs she knew, she retained a keen interest until the last; and the home she made for, and kindness shown to, the Rev. T. W. Powell and wife, are evidence enough to show her love for the aged as well as the young. She was generous and helpful to those in need, and extended it in such a way as not to weaken and pauperize the recipient, but to strengthen and make self-reliant.

She loved her school. The Seminary was at once her child and her kingdom. The one she sought to nourish and care for; and in the other she ruled and sought to extend its reign and influence. She loved her church. In its early days she was an active worker in it and the Sunday school; later, by reason of other increased duties, feeble health, and, alas! misunderstandings, she was not so actively identified with its work; but I know she loved it and was interested in its welfare.

When that dark day came to us, and our loved and beautiful house of worship, at the cyclone's touch, became a ruin, Mrs.

Shimer wrote at once from her home in DeLand words of cheer and an offer of generous financial aid toward rebuilding. Her interest was shown until the work was finished, and I cannot forget the delight with which she counseled and planned for her generous gift, our beautiful pipe organ. Her appreciation of the work done by the Woman's Aid Society was shown by kind words and generous deeds.

She loved Mt. Carroll. She chose it for her home; here she lived, here she worked; and she made the name of Mt. Carroll to be known honorably the world over. The keenest suffering she ever had, and she had many things to give her pain, the most severe suffering of all she ever bore, was that she was misunderstood by so many among whom she lived and whose welfare was dear to her.

Mrs. Shimer was known and loved best by those who knew her best. They are the ones who feel most grateful for companionship, and most keenly the sense of loss at her passing away.

Would we learn in part the result of her long life and work, we need but to look around us.

Would you see her monument? again look around you, for it is the Frances Shimer Academy, and the large number of those whose lives are larger and nobler because of her life and service. She was not only a worker, but an inspirer of other lives. Let me cite two illustrations by way of example: Some years since, at the Baptist State Association, where I had made some remarks in reference to the Seminary and Mrs. Shimer, its founder, the president of Creal Springs College thanked me for speaking as I had done, and to my inquiring as to her acquaintance with Mrs. Shimer, she replied, with animated face and voice: "Why, she is my model, my example; it is because of her that I have been able to do the work I have done. I was once a pupil at Mount Carroll Seminary."

Again, last winter in a village among the mountains in western North Carolina, I met a woman whose good name and usefulness as teacher, wife, and mother, I had heard most highly recommended, and to my surprised delight I learned from her that she was a pupil of the Seminary, and that Mrs. Shimer had been to her an inspiration for noble living and service for others.

The man is considered and the world considered by the same as
with in the house. The man the man has come, and there is no
one in the house, and the world is the world again. It is the man
to believe in the man to believe in the man and the man with the
and the man with the man in the man and the man.

Address of Rev. Edmund Wells, of Lake Helen,
Florida.

THOSE who have preceded me have lessened my task. But as the last days of our departed friend came under my observation, a few words may be permitted concerning a time when the shadows were gathering and the twilight merged gently into the night.

It seems given to some souls to attain success in their pursuits, because great things were expected of them. Others succeed in spite of difficulties, and omens of failure, and some surmount opposition as a bird mounts the air by beating it down. At all events a worldly achievement was attained through some of these experiences. A unity of aim that wins, commands our admiration. And though the life has departed, the work remains—a memorial of unselfish devotion to education.

Such lives are generally misunderstood while they live. A concentrated aim with tireless energy is forceful in one point. The lens gathers light and heat to a spot that burns. A shadow lies about the image of the sun within. If you are accustomed to look at the large space deprived of the solar energy, you ignore the concentration of power beyond the shadow. Do you estimate your lifework by the shadow rather than the point of light?

Xenophon speaks with evident admiration of an act of Cyrus the younger, who, when he received a large sum of money, "did not lavish it upon himself." You all know that the friend we honor today with our sorrow and appreciation, did not use her possessions for personal gratification. But why not? May I not do with my own what I will? Yes, if you will be rich. Yes! if you desire to "fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition." How many personal gratifications did her life need? A few. A refined taste, with means to gratify its cravings, was content with a few, that opportunities of others might be enlarged.

There are trees and lands about you here, trees and lands and evergreen hedges about the cottage in Deland, Florida. A loosened faucet is dripping to keep the wild bird's bath always full. In the shadows of the great trees the mocking birds sing their song; in the vine that climbs up the western piazza they built their nests. To the south and in other quarters, orange and grape fruit are hanging on the trees and bending them down with a young harvesting. On a sunny slope to the south a little pineapple farm is yielding its first fruits. These were the luxuries a refined taste preferred. For whom? This institution of learning commanded her energies and hopes and toils, in her earlier and in her declining years. Her purposes were projected forward, beyond the horizon that bounded her own life, to minister to other lives. This idea of life comes from God. She wrought out her task in her own way, and you must apply your strength to yours or die self centered and unlamented.

A disaster befell our South land. A cold wave rolled over all the fair lakes and fruit-laden groves. The trees were killed. Wealth was thine yesterday, at set of sun. Today is the morrow of thy loss. Values have vanished, and hopes are turned to despair. Was this the supreme disappointment? To selfish souls it might have been. But with her it was the loss of ability to carry forward plans for enlarging the work of this institution. But having the capacity to endure losses with equanimity, she began to retrieve vanished values. The soil remained, the sunshine, the rains—and God. But in the midst of these new hopes, the end came. Do such motives and aims belong to sordid selfishness? Their issues are before the judgment throne of the All Merciful.

What esteem did she command in a new community, among a cultured people in a university town? Ask the man with the hoe working in the grove. He was sick from cold, but was clad anew, and wages paid for hours he was ill. Or, a cultured young lady who found a home in her house, while she pursued her studies, in Stetson. Or, the banker, and the merchants. The lady librarian gave her personal ministries in the house, when her duties permitted. The rector, who lives just across the street, sorrowed for her as for one of his own flock. The faculty of the University, and

the Fortnightly Literary Club esteemed her friendship a privilege. Rev. Mr. Stewart, chaplain U. S. N., retired, her nearest neighbor and intimate friend, spoke befitting words of appreciation of the departed. The singing was furnished by the Conservatory of Music of the University.

All of these, of diverse rank in the social and intellectual world, desired to know what proof of their esteem they might be permitted to render, at any time and especially in this last moment.

Gratitude for human courtesies and for the goodness of God became more evident in the last days. Although this grace was there always, yet, like the shining of the stars, you might not see them till the night came and the day closed.

This may not be the place to speak of her associates that made possible the things she achieved. For they yet abide with us. No one knew better than our departed friend how necessary for this result was their efficient co-operation. It behooves us to sustain and cherish the cause for which she lived. Eternity's calm solace your hearts; that with clear spiritual vision and high resolve you may continue the ministries of this institution that lay hold on the power of an endless life.

From the Academy Records.

INASMUCH as it has pleased Almighty God to take to himself the founder of this Academy, Frances A. Wood Shimer, the trustees desire to place on record the following statement: Mrs. Shimer, in her long and fruitful life, has contributed not a little to the educational interests of this and of other states. By her thought and by her means she has wisely and generously contributed toward the work of this Academy which bears her name. By the energy and force of her character she accomplished an important and useful work in the face of many difficulties. By this same energy and force of character she has made lasting and helpful impression on a large number of pupils committed to her charge, through a long series of years. She was a pioneer in furnishing the higher education to women in the West. In all her work she stood for the highest ideals in service. By her personal generosity she enabled many women to get an education who otherwise could not have secured it. In her work in Mount Carroll Seminary she emphasized constantly the importance of the religious life and the Christian character. She maintained to the last an abiding interest in the educational enterprise to which she gave her life's energies, and repeatedly expressed that interest by word and deed.



Tributes from Friends.

I wish and wish that I had not hesitated to write and tell her of the love I had and have in my heart for her. She had the least self-esteem of any one I ever saw, just as all truly great people feel. She was a great woman.

MRS. M. G. NIAS.

Our Dear Mrs. Shimer: The highest ideal of woman, teacher, counselor, and friend. Her noble work and influence have been broadcast, world-wide, and will live on, even through generations. Her passing away means to me the loss of a loved one whose place cannot be filled.

HELEN M. BELDING-SEYMOUR.

I feel deeply grieved to hear that she is gone. The influence of her life has been so far-reaching that it seems less possible to estimate it than is the case with most persons who have been of real value to the world. I have thought of her always with admiration and tenderness.

MARY V. V. PINCKNEY.

Mrs. Shimer was a noble woman, a true friend to me in my girlhood days at the Seminary, and her memory will always be held sacred by me. Her friends rise up and call her blessed.

ALICE IVES BREED.

What a full and useful life Mrs. Shimer's has been! To her were given the ability and opportunity to do a great deal of good to a great many people, both young and old, and in such a quiet way that only a few knew of her good deeds.

ANNETTE GRIGGS.

I always loved her from my early school days, and regarded her as a dear friend.

MARETTA L. CROUSE.

Can we feel sad that pain can hurt her no more? and our friend is not lost to us, only her earthly presence has vanished; her love is ours as of old, and surrounds us in its strength, and we will be strong in hope and faith and love. I am so grateful to my Father in heaven for casting my lot in early life where I learned to know and love Mrs. Shimer.

MARTHA POWELL.

I am more and more impressed with what a woman can do for womankind, be she consecrated and determined enough. Few of us have such gifts as were her portion; but God can use one-talented people too, and they can surely draw inspiration from her lifework. I am so glad that it was my privilege to know her, to come into contact with such womanhood, and I thank God for her and what it was given her to do.

HARRIET WOODARD.

I can hardly realize that death has come to Mrs. Shimer. She seemed so full of life and energy and helpfulness even in her poor health. Certainly a strong, beautiful character has been transplanted.

CARRIE PENNELL EVANS.

Her work was always aimed at being a help to others; her experience enriched others and made their work easy. It was a noble and a beautiful life. May God help us to imitate it.

BERTA REMMERS.

I am sure that not only in Mt. Carroll and in DeLand, but in many cities throughout the United States the sincerest and deepest tribute is being paid to the memory of Mrs. Shimer. Such a life is its own reward.

LOUISE BARKER.

Mrs. Shimer's home was my all, her care my greatest blessing. I loved her always, not only for what she herself was, but for the much which she gave me. Many a kind word was an expression of her affection. I felt rich indeed at such times, and happy.

The old associations to me are gone, but I have the pleasant picture of a past which can never be forgotten.

MAMIE E. TAPSCOTT.

My entire association with her is only a pleasant memory.

ELLA C. HALLETT.

"It was a strong, courageous, helpful life, which will be long held in grateful and affectionate memory."—*University Record*.

"How far this little candle throws its beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world." Scattered over our great country are many little beams of light—the light of true character and honest, faithful living. For the lighting of these candles, for the first gleam in the development of character, and the value and dignity of labor, many a woman now looks back to the school days in Mrs. Shimer's Seminary. The light of her good deeds is shining, and, let us hope, will shine for many years to come.

SUSAN HOSTETTER MACKAY.

"Great Heart" indeed she was. I am thankful for what she was and what she did, and for the lasting monuments she reared for herself in the hearts and lives of others.

It was most fitting that flowers and song and words of tender eulogy should mark the passing on of one who had brought brightness and melody into so many lives.

GEORGIA F. LEONARD.

It is not possible to estimate the good wrought by such a woman. She was a woman of conscientious, steadfast Christian character, and of many beneficent activities, for she was everybody's friend. Her life was strong,

courageous, and helpful, and hundreds of women to whom she was a good Providence hold her in grateful and affectionate remembrance.

MARY A. LIVENMORE.

I would be glad to express my appreciation in a few words of the love and admiration I had for Mrs. Shimer; but time, space, and words all fail me in trying to do justice to the noble life she lived here among her many friends, who will ever cherish her memory.

H. P. MILES.

Mrs. Shimer was the most helpful educator, and one of the most womanly, Christlike characters I have ever known.

MRS. MARGARET MOFFETT LUDWICK.

To the memory of Frances Wood Shimer "The Mount Carroll Seminary and Frances Shimer Academy Association of Chicago" pays grateful and loving tribute. Mrs. Shimer's example stands as an inspiration toward earnest, purposeful living and nobly helpful womanhood. Through her intelligence, her zeal, her devotion to her chosen life-work, it was made possible for hundreds of girls, among whom all of our members were once included, to be surrounded by influences which tended, not alone to intellectual growth, but as well toward the broadening of the sympathies, and the uplifting and kindling of the spirit.

It is the hope and desire of our members that, as Mrs. Shimer's name is embodied in the title of our association, so our work may be inspired by the same helpful spirit; and that, by aiding as best we may in the work to which she devoted her life, we may assist in perpetuating her most fitting memorial.

By order of the Executive Board of The Mount Carroll Seminary and Frances Shimer Academy Association of Chicago.

MADGE MYERS HISLOP,

President.

I was a student at Mount Carroll Seminary, from January, 1861, until June, 1863. For many years thereafter I knew quite intimately the kind of work Mrs. Shimer was doing. I place her high up in the list of the best and most useful persons I have known. She was quiet, dignified, strong, and gentle. She possessed executive ability of the highest order and would have attained distinction in any vocation that she might have chosen. No one ever came under her influence without feeling the force and beauty of her character. To few men or women have been given the disposition and power which she possessed and exercised to help those anxious for an education. In common with many others I owe her a debt of gratitude, and I shall always think of her with love and veneration.

H. H. C. MILLER.

Date Due

MAR 3 34	OCT 14 68		
	DEC 27 38		
JUN 2 0	MAY 3 72		
	NOV. 17 1979		
MAR 1 8	AUG. 15 1980		
OCT 4	MAR. 23 1990		
DEC 1			
OCT 10			
OCT 30			
NOV 20			
NOV 20			
NOV 11			
FE 23 53			

In Memoriam

The friend we love is gone. Day after day
Sorrow's deep shadow lengthened toward the night
The while we watched her take her peaceful way
Out toward the Hills of Light.

A noble task was that whereto she lent
The best full measure of her ample powers ;
Hers was the stress of the accomplishment—
The heritage is ours.

I see again the strong, kind face, and still
The soft voice speaks the tireless soul's behest—
"The highest calls ; rest not till thou fulfill
Thy worthiest and thy best."

That rest is hers ; yet in that Place of Peace,
With quickened powers and a diviner zeal,
Her wholesome human interest will not cease
In human hope and weal.

Here reverently upon her grave I lay
This humble tribute to a noble friend :
She gave herself for others ; so do they
Who compass Life's best end.